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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 36 | Min 21 | Humidity 29% Partly Cloudy Sensex 73,399 | Nifty 22,272 | Gold 71,843 | Silver 83,463 | Dollar 83.49 | Euro 88.79 | GBP 104.09

Why BMTC needs to conduct extensive city surveys and understand travel patterns of the public, redesign routes

THE GOOD TRIP

Only 20 bus schedules added in 2023-24

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite many metro feeder routes being added, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation was only able to run 20 new schedules in 2023-2024. However, the BMTC is readying to add 600 new schedules this year, we are told.

In 2023-2024, the BMTC added 20 new and additional schedules. This comes in the background of the corporation announcing multiple metro feeder routes.

From 2019- 2024 (January), the BMTC added 264 new schedules; 234 schedules were added in 2021-2022, 10 schedules were added in 2022-2023, and 20 schedules in 2023-2024.

Between the same period, 895 schedules were curtailed; though 2021-2024 saw zero schedule curtailing. In 2023-2024, BMTC ran 20 diesel buses, 220 EV buses and ran 5,577 schedules. Additionally, 796 buses were scrapped and 6,132 buses were retained.

BMTC officials explained that despite the addition of metro feeder routes, only 20 schedules were added due to the diversion of routes for metro feeder routes.

"When metro feeder routes were introduced, we withdrew some routes and allocated those for metro feeders. We haven't been able to add more routes due to crew shortage. We are planning to add 2,500 conductors to our crew and run at least 600 new schedules. Out of the 600 schedules, 200 will be metro feeders. We are also in the process of procuring more buses to meet service needs," said a senior BMTC official.

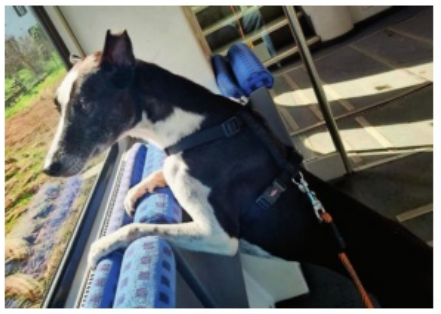
> **"Even at the heart of the city, there is insufficient connectivity in places like Koramangala and Sarjapur**
>
> — Shaheen Shasa, Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike

According to BMTC data,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Nori the stray dog is now home in Vienna

How Bengaluru's 'Hachiko' reached land of great composers to reunite with her human companion



| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Nori, a seven-year-old street dog from Bellandur in Bengaluru, has found her forever home in Vienna, Austria. This 'Hachiko' from the IT city reached the land of composers, Mozart and Beethoven, to be reunited with her human companion Robert Heinerman.

Nori and Heinerman met when the latter's wife was on an assignment in Bengaluru for almost four years. Nori was a part of the dog pack living outside Heinerman's gated layout in Bellandur and grew fond of him after daily feeding and playing sessions.

"Nori would sneak inside the gated layout with Heinerman after his daily morning walks and would sit on his porch for long hours. This is how she knew where Heinerman and his wife lived," said Anuradha Krishnan, an animal welfare worker in the area.

Nori's routine continued for years till one day Mrs Heinerman's assignment in Bengaluru was over and the couple left for their hometown.

Lo and behold, Nori would still sneak inside the layout and sit on Heinerman's old porch every day, waiting for him to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Convert e-waste to art

In the run-up to World Environment Day, Orion Mall invites you to donate your e-waste and help make the world a better place. This e-waste will be transformed into exquisite works of art by visionary artist Vishwanath Mallabadi Davangere and displayed at the mall. The e-waste that you donate will have your name beside the installation.

Where: Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway
To donate e-waste, contact: 9900052295.

02 Suspense and thrill

Explore the variations of humanity in the Alchemy Theatre Society's successful production, '12 Angry Men' directed by Piyush Nain, an IIT Delhi alumni. The drama is a Hindi adaptation of 12 Angry Men, a 1954 teleplay by the American writer Reginald Rose. The play unfolds in India in a room in which 12 individuals on jury duty must decide the conviction of a 19-year-old slum dweller being tried for the murder of his father.

Where: Prabhath Kaladwaraka, Koramangala Club
When: April 20, 3:30 pm and 7 pm

03 Learn Odissi

Adyasha Foundation, in partnership with Little Elly School, is organising an Odissi workshop by Sarita Mishra catering to both beginners (age 4 and above) and intermediates (age 8 and above). Tailored at every level and led by creative director Sarita Mishra, the workshop promises an enriching exploration of Odissi dance if your child is stepping onto the dance floor for the first time or seeking to enhance their skills. It is available both online and in person.

Where: Little Elly, Kudlu
When: April 30 to May 4

Stay cool: Copious monsoon ahead

Though April was super dry, weathermen hold out hope for rain

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Adequate rainfall can support agricultural activities, leading to better crop yields

The India Meteorological Department's (IMD) long-range forecast predicts a favourable southwest monsoon this year. Earlier, private forecaster Skymet had also predicted a good monsoon. Last year, IMD predicted an average monsoon, while Skymet predicted deficient rainfall. Now, with both government and private forecasters predicting a favourable monsoon, fingers are crossed as drought conditions are currently aggravating the water crisis.

The IMD report said, "The forecast for the upcoming southwest monsoon season in 2024 looks promising, especially for regions across India that heavily rely on monsoon rainfall for agricultural activities, water resources, and overall economic stability. There's a high probability of above-normal rainfall during the season, with a likelihood of 61 per cent for rainfall exceeding 104 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA). This means that there's a good chance of experiencing more rain than usual, which could be beneficial for various sectors and communities."

Historically, the southwest monsoon has played a crucial role in India's economy and livelihoods. The monsoon season, which typically lasts from June to September, brings much-needed rain to replenish water reservoirs, support crop growth, and maintain ecological balance. The LPA for monsoon rainfall across India is around 87 cm, based on data spanning from 1971 to 2020. The forecast indicates that this year's rainfall is expected to be around 106 per cent of the LPA, with a small margin of error of ± 5 per cent.

> **"There's a high probability of above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season, which could be beneficial for various sectors and communities**
>
> –IMD report

"Several factors contribute to these optimistic predictions. Currently, there are moderate El Nino conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific region. However, climate models suggest that they are likely to weaken and transition to neutral El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions in the early monsoon season. Subsequently, La Nina conditions are expected to develop during the second half of the season. These are often associated with increased rainfall, especially in regions like India that are influenced by the Indian Ocean monsoon. Moreover, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), which refers to the difference in sea surface temperatures between the western and eastern Indian Oceans, is currently in a neutral phase. However, forecasts indicate a potential shift towards positive IOD conditions later in the southwest monsoon season. Positive IOD conditions are typically favourable for enhanced monsoon rainfall over India. These combined influences of transitioning El Nino conditions to La Nina and potential positive IOD conditions indicate a conducive environment for above-normal rainfall," the report said.

Another contributing factor is the observed snow cover extent over the Northern Hemisphere during the winter and spring months of 2024. Reports indicate that the snow cover extent has been below normal, which historically correlates with increased rainfall during the subsequent Indian summer monsoon.

Meanwhile, an update from Namma Karnataka Weather on platform X said, "Bengaluru is among the worst performers with a -100 per cent deficit. On average, Bengaluru receives 4 days of rain in April. It hasn't happened so far. The pre-monsoon quota is ~180mm, and the city's score this year has been a dismal zero."

A water expert said, "Adequate rainfall can help replenish water reservoirs, ensuring a stable water supply for drinking, irrigation, and industrial purposes. It can also support agricultural activities, leading to better crop yields and food security. Additionally, increased rainfall can contribute to environmental sustainability by replenishing groundwater levels, supporting biodiversity, and mitigating drought conditions."

Values of Constitution, in all classrooms

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The Social Welfare Department of the Government of Karnataka, which launched Children's Constitution Clubs with a tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar in its 800 KREIS (Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society) schools, has been functioning effectively.

Through exciting classroom activities and school campaigns, students of eighth grade are learning about the Preamble and how to apply the principles and values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity in their daily lives.

One of the students from KRCRS, Gangekolla, Uttara Kannada, says, "My club has completed 12 sessions and has taught us to help others. We have done many activities, played fun games and learned something new in each session related to society. I am learning social values, and not to discriminate against others."

Through engaging and experiential learning, students understand their constitutional rights and duties and learn to follow the ideals enshrined in our Constitution in thought, word, and action. They develop key skills and values like empathy and critical thinking, learn to practise equality and celebrate diversity, live in harmony with

nature, follow laws, and learn how to verify facts and seek the truth. "In my village, we faced a health hazard with paper and other waste dumps and mosquitoes. My friends and I took the initiative to bring this to the municipality's attention and the issue was promptly resolved. This experience taught us the importance of reaching out to the right authority for support in addressing community concerns," said Tejaswini, a student of Dr BR Ambedkar Girls Residential School, Manchenahalli.

The social science teachers are facilitating the initiative and have been trained effectively and supported by the Children's Movement for Civic Awareness, which has signed individual MoUs with each school as guided by a circular issued by the department. These clubs have been set up in all 800 schools across 31 districts for this academic year.

Gangamma Itagi, ABVRS, Madanahalli, Uttar Kannada district, said, "Children are enjoying and actively participating in the activities and are learning new things."

No warning? Death at pipeline work site sparks concern

20-year-old rider killed after fall from bike that crashed into barricades near pit dug by BWSSB

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A 20-year-old person was killed and two others were seriously injured after their bike fell into a pit over 20-feet-deep, which had been dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on SMV Road near Kommaghatta Club, Kengeri.

The incident occurred at night on Sunday.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as Saddam Hussain, while the injured have been identified as Umraz Pasha, 25, and Mubarak Pasha, 25.

"Three individuals were admitted to a private hospital following an accident on their way back home from visiting friends. Riding triples on a scooter, the trio collided with barricades set up around a water pipeline construction site," said a source.

The bike crashed into the barricades in front of the work going on at SMV Road, Kengeri and plunged into the 20-feet-deep pit

Traffic police said that the rider, Saddam Hussein, wasn't wearing a helmet and had crossed the first barricade meant to warn motorists. He lost control of the vehicle and crashed into the second barricade, causing the scooter and passengers to fall into a deep pit.

Later, the passers-by alerted the police, who rushed the injured to the hospital, where Saddam Hussein was pronounced dead due to head injuries.

The other two are undergoing medical treatment. Kengeri Traffic Police have filed a case of negligence resulting in death against Saddam Hussein and the BWSSB engineer, with further investigation ongoing.

BWSSB's role

The Bengaluru water board authorities were blamed by some witnesses for not placing barricades near the pit.

However, this allegation was refuted by the BWSSB, which said that the surroundings of the pit had been barricaded and that the men fell into it due to being in an intoxicated state and not noticing the signs.

However, many activists say that the water board has dug up deep pits across the city with no sign boards.

"There is a need for a special law and mandatory safety code. It's high time that we draft a safety code which specifies what are the requirements at the site. For example, in Singapore, the construction boards have all the details of the work including the contact information of the contractor. However, we don't see such things in our country, and looking at the increasing number of accidents due to negligence, there is a need for strict laws that make it mandatory to follow safety codes," said Sandeep Anirudhan, activist.

> **"The water board has dug up roads and it's rare to see proper sign boards or any warning near it**
> —Sandeep Anirudhan, activist

He added that there is also a lack of enforcement among civic authorities when it comes to rules.

"The water board has dug up roads across the city and it's rare to see proper sign boards or any warning near it. The government should look into the matter and make sure that heavy penalties are imposed if the rules are not being followed," he added.

Whistle-blower attacked for questioning funds use

Attackers blamed him for action against residents' association

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The fate of a resident of Kendriya Vihar, a whistle-blower, exposes yet again the risks involved with calling out any irregularity in works worth crores of rupees, all the time. Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi, who is well-known for serving the poor during the lockdown, has landed in hospital after being attacked. Hebbi is receiving treatment at KC General Hospital for injuries sustained in the attack at 7.30 am on Sunday.

The Yelahanka Police have registered a first information report (FIR) under the Sections 506, 34, 504, 323, and 324) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 against five people including Sunil Yadav, Ugrappa, Shivaprasad, Chandan, and others. According to the FIR, Dr Sunil Kumar Hebbi was attacked by Sunil Yadav, his parents and wife with a car lock trigger. They are said to have verbally abused him and made nasty comments against him. It is claimed that the accused persons blamed Hebbi for the freezing of bank accounts of the Kendriya Vihar Residents Association.

It said that while Sunil Yadav was hitting the victim with the car lock trigger, his father grabbed the victim's throat. Later, Ugrappa, Shivaprasad, Chandran and three others joined the accused and began beating him. Finally, the victim escaped from the accused persons with the help of Balaguru, a resident of Kendriya Vihar. After availing of first aid at Government Hospital, Yelahanka, the victim was admitted at KC General Hospital for treatment.

Bangalore Mirror had written about how the District Registrar of Cooperative Societies had restricted fund usage of the association amid an inquiry. The District Registrar has directed the administrative panel of the association not to utilise funds reserved in the bank to collect money from the apartment owners for painting the apartment complexes or to undertake any civil works until the ongoing inquiry is concluded.

> **Man claims he was attacked by people for having a role to play in the freezing of bank account of Kendriya Vihar residents' forum**

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror over the phone, Hebbi said that some unscrupulous elements have been busy hatching a plan to attack him for quite some time. "I questioned the members of Kendriya Vihar Residents Association for deciding to collect a huge amount from flat owners for painting the apartment complex. There was an attempt to damage my vehicle and I lodged a complaint with Yelahanka Police on October 28, 2023 but no action was taken against those responsible," he said.

Mission emission control to be placed under 1 umbrella

and misuse cloud over apartment owners' association

BM had reported on March 23 that district registrar had imposed restrictions on association's fund usage

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Flag flies high, play area still grounded

Citizens express concern over neglected park section despite tallest flagpole's attraction

Tallest flagpole structure in the city hoisted at Vijayanagar

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

After the new construction of a flagpole in Chandra Layout, right next to a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) park for the occasion of Republic Day, residents around the park who made use of the play area situated within the park were hoping that the municipal body would restore it. However, despite the flagpole having been inaugurated in January, the play area is yet to see the light of day.

The tallest flagpole in the city, measuring 215 feet, came up in Vijayanagar on the occasion of Republic Day. Former minister and Vijayanagar MLA M Krishnappa funded the project, which is now a major attraction. Residents and pedestrians in the vicinity now choose to sit in the area made around the flagpole. With plenty of lighting, the space has become a go-to even for those who visit Chandra Layout, which houses many coaching centres and eateries.

> **"The play area saw a significant crowd almost every evening. Now, many children can't make use of it. That portion of the park is neglected**
>
> –a frequent park visitor

"The seating is visited by all sorts of citizens in the area. It is a very good initiative as it sets an example of being an accessible public space. The number of them has been consistently seeing a reduction across the city, with certain sections reporting that even the parks maintained by the municipal body are inaccessible to them," a frequent visitor said. On the other hand, she noted that the play area, which was shattered during the construction, needs to be restored immediately. "The play area saw a significant crowd almost every evening. Now, many children cannot make use of it. That portion of the park is neglected," she said.

The pole itself spans 210 feet in height and has a five-foot Ashoka emblem on the top. In accordance with the National Flag Code, the flag will be unfurled and hoisted. It will also be replaced every two months as the flag is prone to damage from winds. Both manual and motorised methods have been put in place to lower and raise the flag.

The foundation for the project was laid in December, and the massive pole weighing 19 tonnes was installed using the help of a crane. The project is executed at the cost of Rs 1 crore from the MLA grant. The emblem on top of the flagpole is expected to be visible to not only the residents of Vijayanagar but also to residents in neighbouring vicinities.

"Authorities must allot funds to restore portions of the park that have been damaged. The play area was a lively portion of the park, enabling the young to socialise and carry out physical activities," a park visitor said.

IN THE COURT OF THE CIVIL JUDGE & JMFC AT KUNIGAL

O.S No. 25/2024

Plaintiffs: 1) Smt. Sarojamma W/o. Rangaiah, Aged about 62 years, 2) Jayalakshmi D/o. Rangaiah, Aged about 43 years, 3) Chaluvarangaiah B.R S/o. Rangaiah, Aged about 40 years, 4) Manjunatha S/o Rangaiah, Aged about 38 years, All are R/at Bairanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru Dist.

-Vs-

Defendants: The Chief Secretary, Govt of Karnataka, Vidhanasoudha, Bengaluru - 01 and others.

4) Rangaiah S/o. Late Rangaiah, R/at Bairanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kunigal Taluk. Tumakuru Dist. (missing since 29.06.2013).

PAPER DRAFT PUBLICATION

The plaintiff have filed a suit for declaration that the defendant No.4 i.e Rangaiah S/o Late. Rangaiah, Aged about 70 years, R/at. Bairanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kunigal Taluk, Tumakuru Dist is declared to be dead. If the said Rangaiah S/o Late. Rangaiah is alive for the said case is your appearance is absolutely necessary to take final decision. Hence you require to appear before the above mentioned court on dated 29.5.2024 personally or through an Advocate and if you are failed to appear before the Hon'ble court you will be placed ex-parte and cause will be proceed against you.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 15.04.2024 at Kunigal.

By Order of the court
Sd/- Cheif Ministerial Officer
Court of Prl.Civil Judge & JMFC, Kunigal

Advocate for Plaintiff
Hareesh H.G. BA, LLB
Advocate
B.M Road, Kunigal, Tumakuru Dist.

Govt schools lead water conservation with aerators

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

In a bid to address the pressing issue of water scarcity in Bengaluru, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has mandated the use of tap aerators for bulk users. Responding to this directive, in an initiative the Citizens for Citizens (C4C) organisation has taken proactive steps to promote water conservation initiatives across the city.

Taking a grassroots approach, C4C has initiated a campaign to raise awareness about water conservation and the importance of sustainable practices. One of their key initiatives involves purchasing tap aerators and installing them in government schools, with the aim of not only conserving water but also educating citizens on the significance of their actions.

Raj Dugar, the founder of C4C, emphasised the importance of these efforts, stating, "BWSSB has recently taken up a programme of making these pits at some places. Secondly, we have been placing water bowls for animals and birds. Nearby residents have been requested to keep these clean and filled to the brim. The animals and birds have no means of communicating thirst to us, and many go into dehydration and die."

The organisation's focus extends beyond just installing aerators. They are also advocating for the implementation of rainwater harvesting and recharge pits to mitigate flooding and raise the water table. Dugar further explained, "These aerators have holes near their outer periphery and not all across their cross-section. This ensures limited thin streams of water which helps increase the perceived pressure of water as well as significantly reducing the quantity of water flowing in a given duration."

Dugar pointed out that they have begun the installation of aerators in various locations such as the Government School in Vasanth Nagar and the High Grounds Law & Order Police Station. The aim is threefold: to conserve water, raise awareness, and inspire others to take similar actions in their communities.

Looking ahead, Dugar pointed out the need for sustained efforts, stating, "BWSSB has to facilitate aerators by arranging for sales points at all BWSSB offices – just like Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) had arranged for LED bulbs at subsidised prices at their main offices."

He also highlighted the challenge of maintaining public interest in conservation efforts, urging for long-term policies and initiatives.

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9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Fallen tree
Jayanagar

An old tree that fell down two months ago lies unattended at 38th Cross, 6th Main, resulting in garbage dumping and exposed wiring.

Intersection issue
D'Souza Road

The intersection in Ward 111, poses hazards to pedestrians.

Burning plastic
Gudimattanahalli

Gudimattanahalli in Sarjapur faces a plastic waste problem with no garbage bins or trucks for collection, leading to the daily burning of plastic waste.

Disability rights: Inspector's conduct under scrutiny

Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act presses police for report on alleged mistreatment of individual with disability; inquiry initiated but progress remains elusive

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The State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of Bengaluru North, requesting a report within 15 days on the action taken against Bagalagunte Police Inspector Pradeep Kumar for allegedly misbehaving with S Santosh, a person with a disability (PwD).

"We have asked for the action taken report against Bagalagunte Police Inspector Pradeep Kumar for misbehaving, using bad language and threatening Santosh, a PwD, but we have not received the report from you. We request you to send the report within 15 days of receiving this letter," said Das Suryavamshi, State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, in a letter dated March 28, 2024.

It is alleged that Pradeep Kumar, Police Inspector of Bagalagunte, threatened and used bad language after summoning Santosh, a PwD, to Bagalagunte Police Station from Kannamahalli based on a complaint by Rajan K, a resident of Devki Apartment Officer Model Colony. Rajan complained that his wife had known Santosh for six years, and she gave him Rs 1,50,000 cash and 175 gm gold. The complainant also claimed to have chat records between Santosh and his wife for six years and alleged that Santosh threatened him. Bagalagunte police registered an NCR (non-cognizable report) on November 8, 2022.

"I visited Bagalagunte Police Station situated 22 km away from my residence as soon as I received a phone call from Police Inspector Pradeep Kumar. I went to the police station along with my ill mother. Pradeep Kumar not only made me wait for four hours but also used bad language in front of my mother. A police constable insisted that I sign on a blank

paper, but I refused," said Santosh.

Santosh approached the State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act on February 6, 2023, seeking justice. The State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act wrote a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru North, and Bagalagunte Police Inspector on March 6, 2023, advising them to register an FIR against the accused persons.

Meanwhile, the Bagalagunte Police Inspector, in an endorsement on February 4, 2024, denied Santosh's allegations. The Police Inspector stated that Santosh made allegations against him to avoid being summoned to the police station again.

"I did not use bad language or threaten him. The allegations are far from the truth. I advised both Santosh and Rajan to live in harmony and not create law and order problems," the Police Inspector said in the endorsement.

Finally, the police department appointed Soladevanahalli Police Inspector to conduct a departmental inquiry against Police Inspector Pradeep Kumar at 11 am on March 15, 2024. "I attended the inquiry at Bengaluru North DCP Office where Soladevanahalli Police Inspector was also present. They took my statement on that day, but there is no progress in the inquiry," said Santosh.

When contacted, an employee of the State Commissioner for Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act said that the State Commissioner wrote a letter to the police authorities and was waiting for their reply.

'Illegal' school's fate shifts to PIL

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Campus of BGS Bloomfield School, Thyagaraja Nagar

The High Court of Karnataka, Single Bench headed by the honourable Justice Suraj Govindaraj, has converted a writ petition into a public interest litigation (PIL), considering the larger interest of the students and staff working at BGS Bloomfield School, Bengaluru, which has been operating illegally in Thyagaraja Nagar, all these years.

The said school has been issued a demolition order by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) since the school has no building plan and is also constructed abutting the stormwater drain.

Since the demolition order of BBMP may come into force at any time, the writ petition was filed by the petitioner Sudha Katwa to secure the safety of the children studying in the school and also the staff.

The High Court issued the notice in February to the respondent state and also the management of the School. When the matter was heard on April 5, 2024, the High Court converted the petition into Public Interest Litigation since the safety and security of children are involved in the matter and directed the Registry to place it before the Roster Bench, i.e., the honourable Chief Justice, for more detailed consideration.

"A reading of the above petition indicates that the petition has been filed in the public interest and the petitioner claims to be a public interest person. If that were to be so, this court would not have the jurisdiction. The matter would have to be considered by the concerned Court having a roster of public interest.

Accepting the submission of the learned counsel for the petitioner, the above petition is treated as a public interest litigation and directed to be placed before the concerned roaster Court, and the petitioner to comply with all requirements of the High Court of Karnataka (Public Interest Litigation) Rules, 2018," the High Court Judge said.

The writ petition was represented by advocate Umapathi S of Lex Group on behalf of the petitioner Sudha Katwa, an advocate.

PHONE-IN

A to Z about obesity to be answered

Dr G Moinoddin, Consultant Bariatric & Advanced Laparoscopic Surgeon at Manipal Hospital, Millers Road, will be addressing questions related to obesity and its management.

During the session, he will cover topics such as identifying obesity, its associated health risks, various options for managing obesity, criteria for considering surgical interventions, the potential reversal of diabetes through bariatric and metabolic surgeries, and the percentage benefits of metabolic surgeries.

This informative session provides an opportunity for readers to gain valuable insights into obesity and related risks.

So, don't forget to call 080-40877665 on April 17, 2024, Wednesday, between 12.30 pm & 01.30 pm.

Karnataka-Andhra railway line stalled

Land acquisition delays, cost-sharing disputes hinder progress

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With the demand for the speedy completion of the Tumakuru-Rayadurg railway line, which will enhance connectivity between Bengaluru and Ballari, the Centre states that the responsibility lies with the Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh governments.

Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a recent parliamentary reply, stated, "The Tumakuru-Rayadurg via Kalyandurga new line project (207 km) is sanctioned on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis by the Government of India with the governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for their respective portions in their states. The anticipated cost of this project is Rs 2,404 crore. So far, an expenditure of 1,217.27 crore has been incurred on the project, and the 83 km-long Rayadurga-Doddahalli section has been commissioned. Land acquisition has been taken up for the remaining section. Both governments have to expedite the acquisition of the remaining 24 and 232 hectares of revenue land, respectively, and deposit 162 crore and 232 crore, respectively, towards their share in the project; thereby, the work would be further expedited."

The Rayadurg-Tumakuru project aims to provide an alternative train route from Bengaluru to Guntakal and Ballari. Presently, due to heavy train movement on the Bengaluru-Anantapur-Guntakal route, some trains take a detour around Ballari. However, as the shortest route via Rayadurg and Tumakuru is yet to be completed, trains are diverted from Bengaluru via Tumakuru, Chikkajajur, Chitradurga, and Ballari. There are also issues with land acquisition in Karnataka.

The Rayadurg-Tumakuru project will enhance connectivity between Bengaluru and Ballari

> **"The Andhra Pradesh government has categorically told the railway authorities that they would bear only the land acquisition costs**
>
> –An official

An official stated that the Rayadurg-Tumakuru project has made no progress in Andhra Pradesh, as none of the required 68.61 acres of land has been acquired to date. Karnataka has deposited Rs 260.35 crore under its share so far but has yet to spend Rs 8 crore on land acquisition, according to government records. "For land acquisition alone, the AP government will have to shell out a sum of Rs 1,361 crore for road-over-bridges, road-under-bridges, new (single) rail line works, and doubling projects. The AP government has expressed unwillingness to honour the cost-sharing agreement with the Indian Railways, jeopardising several major rail projects. They have categorically told the railway authorities that they would bear only the land acquisition costs." On the other hand, railways maintained that 'it is not possible' to take up all these cost-sharing projects solely with their funds, owing to the large shelf of projects.

"The completion of any railway project depends on various factors, like quick land acquisition by the state government, forest clearance by officials of the forest department, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, geological and topographical conditions of the area, the law and order situation in the area of the project site, the number of working months in a year for a particular project site due to climatic conditions, etc. With the above constraints, every effort is being made to execute the project(s) expeditiously," added Vaishnaw.

BMTC takes up complaint over change fracas

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has initiated a complaint after a commuter called out an incident of a bus conductor not providing change amounting to five rupees. Commuters have noted that this issue often leads to scuffles between the passengers and the bus crew and have called on the corporation to implement digital ticketing in order to facilitate easy and change-free transactions.

Nithin Krishna, a physiotherapist residing in the city, took to platform X and said, "I lost my five rupees as this conductor didn't have even one rupee change to return. Is there any solution to this?" Further, he said that the corporation should either provide conductors with sufficient change before the start of the trip or use technology to do online payments.

"In Mumbai, the conductor writes on the back of the ticket, and you can then claim it from the bus depot in the form of postal stamps. In Bengaluru, I have never received my change," said another neitzen.While many have suggested that it is best for commuters to carry the exact required amount after checking the stipulated fare, a large majority have urged the BMTC to introduce online ticketing. At present, commuters can only buy the various passes provided by the BMTC digitally through an application named Tummoc. While they were hoping to be able to buy tickets through the BMTC application, the feature is still a work in progress. Tickets can be bought through UPI payments only on the majority of Volvo buses. This facility must be extended across all buses, say commuters.

Moreover, an incident where a student was told to get off the bus because he did not have the required fare but only a Rs 100 note has come to light. "BMTC conductor forced a high school kid to get down midway in the afternoon sun as he had a single Rs 100 and no change for ticket. The conductor was furious," tweeted Nisha Gauri, tagging the transport minister.

–BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Water danger: Deadly whirlpools could cost your life

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

With schools and even some colleges on summer vacation, many people visit picnic spots, particularly riverfronts. However, if you are travelling to Sangama or Muthathi, avoid entering the waters, even in cases where the water level is low. A few days ago, Sai Tej (19), a resident of Byrathi who had been to Sangama along with his family, fell into the river and drowned as he lost balance while playing in the water. Thus, police and forest department officials are urging people not to venture into the water for their own safety.

Shiva Prakash, a localite, said, "Sangama and Muttati are extremely risky. Most youngsters between the ages of 20 and 23 are drowning at this place. I request the Karnataka government to strictly restrict the place for visitors, especially the walking path, which is very risky. There are whirlpools, out of which nobody can be rescued. I request the youngsters to avoid doing such adventures as these and leaving the parents in teary eyes."

Locals said that these riverbeds were notorious for whirlpools. Despite warnings, many head to the river and are accidentally caught by them. However, what they don't realise is that these whirlpools are so strong that they are washed away in seconds. There are many occasions where even those trying to help the drowning person also fall into them. Muthathi is one notorious river bed where hundreds of Bengalureans have drowned to date. Though the Cauvery waters appear still, it is actually an illusion, as there are strong undercurrents in the river that drown the people. Moreover, many of them who visit Muthathi and Sangama get drunk and then get into water. This is one of the major reasons for the deaths of tourists. Though there are sign boards at these places showing the drowning figures, there is no restriction on tourists getting into dangerous places. It is the tendency of visitors to get into the water at these places. Furthermore, the rocks have sharp edges where one can get hurt while getting carried away by water, leading to worse situations. Hence, whether you know swimming or not, always do not enter into waters.

In the last six years, 780 tourists have lost their lives by drowning in whirlpools at famous places in Karnataka (mainly at Sathanur and Muthathi). Most of the deceased were youths, either students or techies, who headed to the water spots during weekends or holidays.

Out of context, slip of tongue

HDK clarifies his women-lost-their-way statement; BJP leader's extra peg comment courts trouble

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy on Monday expressed regret over his comments that women in rural areas have "lost their way" due to the five guarantee schemes of the Congress government in Karnataka, but claimed that his statement is being twisted.

The former chief minister attacked Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief DK Shivakumar accusing him of trying to blow up the remarks in a way which he did not mean, as he pointed out at comments made by Congress leaders against women recently.

"What obscene comments have I made? I have asked women to be cautious while making a decision and not to lose their way....What I meant is don't fall for the guarantee scheme and vote for Congress.... For that Congress has decided for a state wide-protest. They don't have anything else to speak against me," Kumaraswamy said.

He told reporters, he need not learn from the Congress about respecting women. "I still say what I said that day is -- I cautioned them (women) and asked them to decide carefully as they (Congress in the name of guarantees) will destroy your livelihood....I have no prestige, if my comments have hurt women office bearers of Congress and if my statement has caused sorrow to someone I express my regret," he added. Further stating he had admitted on the floor of the Assembly that he too had lost his way in the past and that his wife corrected him and brought back him on the right track, Kumaraswamy said, "If my statement has hurt any women, that was not my intention, my statement is being twisted."

"I express my regret to all the women of the state, if my mothers are hurt. Even when I spoke that day I addressed women as mothers. Unlike Congress leaders who used distasteful comments," he said, adding, he will also respond to the women's commission notice over the issue.

Questioning as to from whose pockets the government is funding guarantee schemes, Kumaraswamy during a road show in Tumakuru on Saturday said, "This government (state) in the last election had announced five guarantees, (because of which), our mothers in the villages have lost their way. One should think about what will happen to their livelihood and that of their families."

JD(S) State President HD Kumaraswamy addresses the media at the party office in the city on Monday

'Not directed at minister'

Former Karnataka BJP MLA Sanjay Patil has claimed that his "take an extra peg" comment was not intended towards state Women and Child Development (WCD) Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar, whose son Mrinal Hebbalkar is Congress' Lok Sabha poll candidate from Belagavi.

Patil told mediapersons that he had never taken the Minister's name while making the comment and challenged the Congress leaders to prove if he had done so.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka State Women's Commission has registered a suo motu case against the BJP leader for his alleged remarks against the WCD Minister. A notice has also been issued, seeking Patil's response on why the action should not be initiated against him for his comments.

The remarks made by the former MLA at a public meeting in Belagavi on Saturday stirred a controversy. Patil had said: "A large number of women are coming out in support of the BJP in Belagavi. This is why I would want my elder sister to have a sleeping pill or an extra peg to get a good night's sleep. It will also be difficult for her to see Ramesh Jarkiholi campaigning in the Belagavi constituency."

The BJP leader on Sunday said: "Let them (Congress leaders) show if I had taken her (Lakshmi Hebbalkar's) name in my statement. When I mentioned Akka bai (elder sister), why do you think it is her? Extra peg means energy drink."

"If I had done wrong, let them file a complaint with the Election Commission and police. If I am guilty, let them punish me. Is it tenable to stage a protest at night?" he added.

IANS

Much ado over 'misunderstood' election campaign speeches in state

Cong files complaint

The Congress in Karnataka filed a complaint on Monday with the Election Commission, seeking legal action against Kumaraswamy over his comments.

—PTI

BJP will crack whip against Eshwarappa, says party's state unit

Karnataka BJP President BY Vijayendra said on Monday that the party would take disciplinary action against rebel leader KS Eshwarappa, who has decided to contest as an independent in Shimoga Lok Sabha segment.

This is the first time the party has reacted on the issue. Vijayendra said that his brother and Shimoga MP BY Raghavendra, who is seeking re-election, will win the seat by over two lakh votes and people will teach a lesson to Eshwarappa.

Eshwarappa, a former Deputy Chief Minister who had also served as the party's state unit President, has entered the fray blaming Vijayendra and his father and veteran party leader BS Yediyurappa for his son KE Kantesh being denied the ticket to contest from the Haveri Lok Sabha seat.

"We will take disciplinary action against him (Eshwarappa), and voters of the constituency will also take action against him. The more he speaks, double the votes that will come in favour of Raghavendra," Vijayendra said here in response to the 75-year-old's allegation of Yediyurappa favouring his sons and the party's Bangalore North seat candidate Shobha Karandlaje. Speaking to reporters here, he said Raghavendra is a popular MP and people will reject such "loose talks" by Eshwarappa.

"What is the contribution of Eshwarappa to Shivamogga district having been the Minister and Deputy Chief Minister. How Raghavendra has done development works as an MP, and what are Yediyurappa's contribution as CM to the district and the state is discussed in every household. There is no need to learn for him," he said.

Vijayendra says his brother will win the seat and people will teach KSE a lesson

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka had earlier this month indicated that BJP will decide on taking disciplinary action against Eshwarappa, once he files his nomination against the party's official candidate. Eshwarappa is steadfast on his decision to contest spurning efforts by party leaders to pacify him.

—PTI

Supporters of KS Eshwarappa before he files his nomination

Compensate ASHAs for their election duties

The State Committee of Karnataka State United Asha Workers' Association, affiliated to AIUTUC, has raised concerns regarding the lack of remuneration for ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers who have been assigned election duties. With preparation for the general elections to the Lok Sabha underway, ASHA workers are being called upon to participate in various pre-voting awareness activities and serve as health assistants at polling stations.

Despite their crucial role in ensuring the smooth conduct of elections, ASHA workers pointed out that they were not receiving any compensation for their extended hours of duty, which typically spans from 7 am to 6 pm on polling days. Additionally, they are tasked with providing Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) to voters and offering assistance with any other health-related issues that may arise at the polling stations.

In light of these concerns, the association called for immediate action from the state government to address the issue. They urged the government to pass an order mandating fair compensation for ASHA workers engaged in election duties, including provisions for meals and snacks.

A member from ASHA workers union said, "The demand for equitable treatment and fair compensation underscores the essential role played by ASHA workers in ensuring public health and civic participation. By acknowledging and addressing their concerns, the government can not only motivate ASHA workers to perform their election duties efficiently but also demonstrate its commitment to valuing the contributions of frontline healthcare workers."

—Iffath Fathima

Byju's India CEO resigns in latest setback

Raveendran to take on more hands-on approach in daily operations, says company

Indian education technology company Byju's said on Monday that its India CEO Arjun Mohan has stepped down after spending seven months in the role, the latest setback for the embattled start-up already hit with financial, legal and operational woes.

The move comes after a seven-month operational and costs review led by Mohan, who will transition to an external advisory role, the company said without providing a reason for the resignation.

Mohan, former CEO of edtech upGrad, joined Byju's last July to lead the international business and was made India CEO in September.

Byju's, once one of India's hottest startups, has suffered numerous setbacks in the past few years, leading to a crisis of investor confidence, thousands of job cuts and its valuation nosediving to under $3 billion from $22 billion in 2022.

Separately on Monday, Byju's said that shareholders have approved its rights issue. The startup had previously struggled to meet salary deadlines of its employees, citing inability to access funds due to a standoff with some of its shareholders.

Byju's will now consolidate into three divisions -- its marquee online learning app business, online classes and tuition centers and lastly, test preparation -- with each having a separate head, the company said.

Byju's, which operates in 21 countries as per its LinkedIn page, said the restructuring would not impact its international businesses, since it was product, not geography, specific.

The company also said that founder and CEO Byju Raveendran will take on a more "hands-on" approach in daily operations, compared with his recent focus on aspects such as raising capital and global expansion.

In February, a group of investors including Prosus and Peak XV voted to oust Raveendran due to governance, financial mismanagement and compliance issues. Byju's had called the move invalid.

– Reuters

Abhishek Sharma becomes SRH's fifth-highest run-getter

Opener Abhishek Sharma overtook England batter Jonny Bairstow to become the fifth-highest run-getter for Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Indian Premier League.

The young all-rounder accomplished this against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in their IPL match at M Chinaswammy Stadium on Monday.

Abhishek, who has been assigned a task to give brisk start to his team, did not disappoint as he scored 34 in 22 balls, with two fours and two sixes. His runs came at a strike rate of 154.55. In the ongoing season, Abhishek has scored 211 runs at an average of 35.16 and a strike rate of 197.19, with a half-century. His best score is 63. He is the 11th highest run-getter in the tournament so far.

For SRH in 50 games since 2019, has scored 1,041 runs at an average of 23.65 and a strike rate of 143.78. He has scored five half-centuries, with the best score of 75.

His best season was in 2022, scoring 426 runs in 14 matches at an average of 30.43 and a strike rate of over 133, including two fifties.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's all-time highest run-getter is Australian legend David Warner, having scored 4,014 runs in 95 matches at an average of 49.55 and a strike rate of over 142.59. He smashed two centuries and 40 fifties for the team, with the best score of 126.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) skipper Faf Du Plessis won the toss and elected to bowl first against SunRisers Hyderabad at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Monday.

SRH are in the fifth spot with three wins and two losses, while RCB are desperately searching for wins and are at the bottom with a win and five losses. **ANI**

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I, Venkatesha Bhatta, Sadashiva Bhatta, S/o Venkatesha Bhatta K VS L N Temple, Vivekanand Road, Tumkur-572101 here changed my name as Sadashiva V vide affidavit dt: 29.12.2023 sworn before Tumakuru Notary T.N. Bharathi

I Rohith Rajesh R/o #90,Sanja - na Apts,flat No.004 1S, 8th main Kanakanapalya, Jayanagar 2nd block, B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Rohith Ranka for all purposes

I, Parimala.S have changed my name to Sujatha.P vide Affidavit dated 05.06.2003. Sworn before Notary B.Hanumantharaya.

I shetal R D/O Rajesh Kumar B Bangalore have changed my name from Anussa to Shetal R for all my future purpose.

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I,SIDDHARTH PRADEEP CHANDARANA R/o (B5 1801 Elita Promenade Residency Kothnur village JP Nagar 7th phase Blore 560078), have changed my minor daughter name from Meera Sidharth Chandarana TO MEERA PALLAVI SIDDHARTH CHANDARANA. Dated 01/04/2024.

I Isha Gajbhiye D/o Raghunath Gajbhiye R/at B-802, S V Heights, Hope Farm Junction, Channasandra Main Road, Opp: Manthri Layout Exit Gate,Ambedkar Nagar, Whitefield, Bangalore-560066 have changed my name as Isha Raghunath Gajbhiye in front of Notary S Subhashini.

I,SIDDHARTH PRADEEP CHANDARANA R/o (B5 1801 Elita Promenade Residency Kothnur village JP Nagar 7th phase Blore 560078), have changed my minor daughter name from Mihika Sidharth Chandarana TO MIHIKA PALLAVI SIDDHARTH CHANDARANA.

I, Chandrasekaran Karuppiah S/o Karuppaiah Pillai M R/o 23, 3rd cross, Annayappa block, Benson town, B'luru 560046 have changed my name to Chandrasakeran Karuppaiah affidavit Dt.15/04/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Gopalakrishna V residing at No.3396, 13th Cross, K R Road Shastrinagar, BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560028 have changed my name to Gopalkrishna V vide affidavit dated 15.4.2024 vide before Notary Mohammed Hussain K Bangalore

I Somashekara Panathur Narasimha Reddy R/o No.323/2 Panathur Boghanahalli road, Bengaluru 560103 have changed my name to Somashekar Panathur Narasimha Reddy affidavit Dt.15/04/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Sudhakar B S/O, Babu Shanmugam S R/o A-104, Golden Palms App, Nagappa Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, Bangalore. have changed my name to Sudhakar Babu Shanmugam.

I, Anant N Anveri S/o Nagaraj Anveri R/o A407, Creative Elegance 9th main, VHBCS Lyt, Veeranapalya, B'luru 560045 have changed my name to Anant Anveri affidavit Dt.15/04 /2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Priti Jindal Alias Priti W/o Dinesh Garg R/o Jindal Aluminium Limited, Jindal Na -gar,Tumkur Road, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Priti Garg, affidavit Dt.15/04 /2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ranjitha C V R/o 179 4th Cross SRY Layout Vaddrapalya Koppa Begur Road B'luru-68 have changed my name to Ranjitha Chandrasekhar for all purposes.

I,SHAHIDA fasim W/o Syed Shah fasihuddin R/o #130 1st Main Road behind Kims Hospital Parvathi Puram B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Shaida fasih

I, Abdul Azeeem S/o Abdul Hakim R/o 12/2 Lakshmi Road 6th Cross Shanthi Nagar B'lore-560027 have changed my name to Abdul Azeem.

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'Corporation to add 2,500 crew, 600 schedules, procure vehicles'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the corporation saw a 2.84 per cent decrease in crew members. In 2022-2023, BMTC held 29,457 crew members and it dropped to 28,620 crew members in 2023-2024.

However, experts are of the view that the BMTC needs to conduct extensive city surveys to understand travel patterns so as to redesign routes.

"Across the city, we need more bus services to improve the traffic situation. We are diverting our limited resources to metro feeder routes while they should be considering increasing the frequency of regular routes. The metro feeders are also running on longer routes while ideally, these metro feeders should be 2-km routes.

The BMTC should conduct surveys to identify parts of the outskirts and developing areas that are not connected. Even at the heart of the city, there is insufficient connectivity in places like Koramangala and Sarjapur. In certain cases, bus routes are long and time-consuming thereby decreasing the frequency. The corporation should consider running multiple smaller routes along these stretches to meet higher frequency needs.

There is a need to relook at the hub and spoke model of connectivity of buses in Bengaluru. We need to identify and assess if all the TTMCs are being utilised to the maximum and if the existing locations of TTMCs are serving the purpose.

BMTC should procure nearly 12,000-15,000 buses and more minibuses to meet the needs of inner roads. We also need bus priority lanes to ensure faster commute using buses," said Shaheen Shasa, member of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike.

Mobility experts noted the key to the solution for limited buses would be to conduct route rationalisation and not just focus on metro feeder routes.

"There needs to be routes rationalising undertaken. In order to go from point A to point B, passengers have to go to point C according to the hub and spoke model of bus connectivity. We need more direct buses to allow more passengers to shift to public transport. The entire fare system of BMTC is skewed and must be complemented with BMRCL. There should be one ticket for both BMTC and BMRCL which would allow usage of BMTC services within 3 km around metro stations. Additionally, we need to introduce more shared autos within shared auto zones to meet the needs.

The BMLTA was formed with the view to create interdepartmental coordination between BMTC and BMRCL but this has not been established. Adding more metro feeder routes is not a solution," said Satya Arikutharam, an urban mobility expert.

Bengaluru stray dog has a home in Europe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

return or show up. This went on for nearly a year before Nori was noticed by a kind-hearted resident of the area, Unna V Govindarajan, who reached out to Krishnan.

"Govindarajan contacted me after another resident of the layout told her about Nori who would keep coming to this gated community, to a particular house. Sleep there; vanish but only to come back. People in the lane were disturbed by this. We tried to move Nori outside the layout's gate, but she kept coming back to this house where the couple lived," recalled Krishnan.

Krishnan then reached out to Heinerman in Austria to inquire if he knew Nori and explained the situation. The kind-hearted man said he would be willing to provide Nori a forever home.

Krishnan along with other animal welfare workers, Shalini Bhai, Jagan Mohan Reddy, Meena Lakshmi, and Unna V Govindarajan decided that Nori shall travel thousands of miles to be with Heinerman, and raised funds for her journey.

What followed was six months of boarding, training Nori, and preparing all the paperwork required for this loyal international traveller. This group of animal welfare workers started feeding the dog, trying to befriend it. Nori was sent to live with Shalini for six months, who helped the stray overcome all her fears and gave her the confidence and training needed to be inside a crate for international travel.

However, the team faced another hurdle when they started their hunt for a travel buddy for Nori.

"The minute Rob said he would take her in, we got the feeling that this was meant to be. Although we felt stuck again when we couldn't find a travel buddy to Austria, I volunteered and somehow it all fell into place like a perfect jigsaw puzzle. We raised Rs 1.5 lakh to take Nori to Austria. She reached Vienna three weeks ago," said Krishnan. She added that those looking for an animal companion should give Indies a chance to be friends for life.

"People should stop opting for 'breed' dogs. Many beautiful hearts are waiting for a loving home. However, if you can't adopt, you should at least be compassionate towards animals, as they are just as part of the society as us humans," signed off Krishnan.

HEALTH TIP: Improving access to thyroid screening and treatment is vital in addressing thyroid disorders

Eat no more than four teaspoons of sugar and one teaspoon of salt per day

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At a neurodivergence

Here's how employers can help in the workplace

There has been a rise in the number of people diagnosed with "neurodivergence" in adulthood over the past decade. This trend has been noted internationally.

As many as 8% of adults globally could have some form of neurodivergence.

Neurodivergence is an umbrella term that typically includes autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and specific learning disorders (SLD) – sometimes referred to as dyslexia.

The rise in these diagnoses when people are already in the workforce presents a challenge for employers. Business owners can be left wondering how they can support neurodivergent employees without causing issues for the wider business.

'Childhood' diagnoses now part of adulthood

Historically, diagnoses were predominantly made in children , with the view that people "grew out" of them as they developed into adults.

But research over the past decade indicates the majority of people with these conditions continue to experience symptoms throughout their adult life, albeit in different ways to childhood.

Understanding neurodivergence is underpinned by the view that ASD, ADHD, and SLD reflect differences in how a person's brain is "wired" rather than being an underlying "disorder".

This changing view appears to have increased awareness of neurodivergence. It has also reduced the stigma associated with it, leading more people to seek support as adults.

A limited understanding of gender differences in the way neurodivergence is expressed, as well as limited access to psychological and psychiatric assessments in the public sector, have likely contributed to significant numbers of people missing out on childhood diagnoses. Many are now seeking assistance in adulthood.

Neurodivergence in the workplace

This rising tide of adults seeking to better understand their differences – and potentially seek treatment – has presented challenges for businesses and employers.

But employers need not fear hiring those who are neurodivergent. Viewing neurodivergence as a difference rather than a disability contributes to an inclusive workplace where people's strengths are recognised and celebrated.

Some people with ADHD, for example, work very effectively in a fast-paced environment with tight deadlines and rapidly changing content, such as journalism. People with ASD often have very specialised areas of interest that, if matched to the right work environment, can lead them to be experts in their fields.

But it would be naive to say neurodivergence doesn't bring with it some challenges for individuals and their workplaces. A person with ADHD may appear quite disorganised to others (and to themselves), and at times "put their foot in their mouth" through impulsively saying something they haven't fully thought through.

Those with ASD often report challenges in navigating social relationships at work, or may have particular sensory sensitivities (finding the general hubbub of open-plan offices anxiety-provoking, for example). They may struggle to process large amounts of written or verbal information, resulting in confusion and anxiety.

Businesses need awareness

Businesses and organisations looking to support neurodivergence in the workplace should initially focus on increasing awareness and understanding among leaders and managers.

Managers need to work with individual staff who have self-identified as neurodivergent to understand and implement what is needed to support them.

There may be some very practical steps that can be taken, such as having designated low-stimulus areas, providing noise-cancelling headphones, or understanding how best to communicate clearly and simply with an individual. Some staff may wish to take up psychological support via their workplace to help them develop skills in areas they find difficult.

Technically, neurodivergence is likely to fall under the Employment Relations Act, which prohibits businesses from discriminating against people with these conditions. Indeed, the legislation requires an employer to make reasonable allowances in the workplace.

Perhaps the worst thing an employer can do is overlook neurodivergence as being present in the workplace. Ignorance, whether wilful or not, will lead to inaction.

That said, it would also be a mistake for an employer to unilaterally refer a staff member for an assessment of suspected neurodivergence. To suggest someone is neurodivergent and requires a psychological assessment may lead to personal distress and potentially breach employment law.

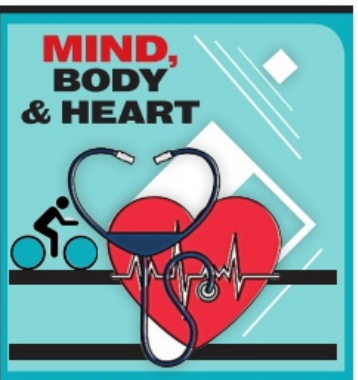
Employers should also be aware of the lengthy and complicated pathway to an adult diagnosis, due to factors such as lack of clear adult diagnostic criteria and shortage of trained clinicians. Employers can support staff in this process by allowing flexibility in work hours to attend specialist appointments, or even funding access to assessments in the private sector.

The rise of awareness about neurodivergence mirrors the rise in awareness of mental health conditions in the workplace generally.

Although this increased visibility can be confusing for some staff and organisations, recognition and understanding of neurodivergence can only be good for businesses in the long term.

Helping people operate to their full potential by understanding their strengths and challenges will ultimately lead to thriving and productive workplaces.

(By Dougal Sutherland, Victoria University of Wellington, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Psychosis

2 brains systems at work
Two brain systems have been found to function improperly in people experiencing psychosis, where they have trouble distinguishing between what is real and what is not, according to a new research led by Stanford University, US.

Filter, predictor
These systems were found to be – one, a 'filter' directing attention towards what is important externally and internally, and two, a 'predictor' involved in anticipating rewards.
The filtering system, or the salience network, helps us dismiss irrational thoughts so that we can focus on what's real and meaningful to us, such as paying attention to traffic while driving, researchers explained.
The reward predicting system, driven by dopamine, is critical to anticipating what will be rewarding or important, they said.

Malfunction
Together, they malfunction in a way such that thoughts not linked to reality capture the brain's cognition networks, said Vinod Menon, a professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences, Stanford University, US.
"This process derails the normal functioning of cognitive control, allowing intrusive thoughts to dominate, culminating in symptoms we recognise as psychosis," said Menon, senior author of the study published in the journal 'Molecular Psychiatry'.

What is psychosis
In psychosis, patients experience hallucinations, such as hearing voices, and hold delusional beliefs, such as thinking that people who are not real exist, the researchers said. The state is known to occur either on its own, or as a symptom of mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. **PTI**

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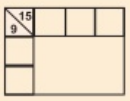
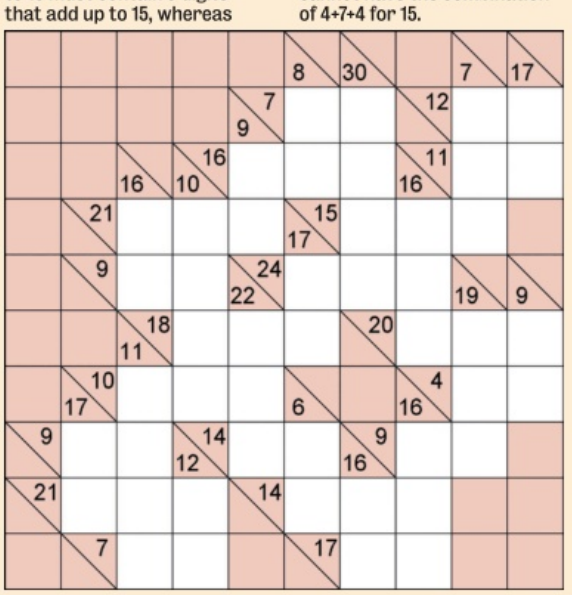
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

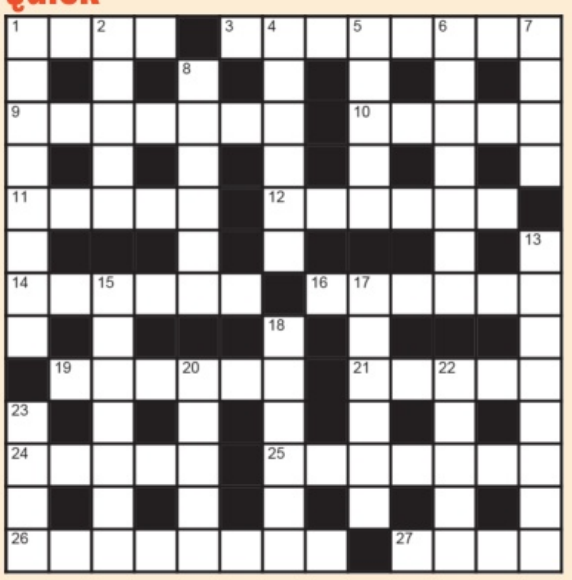


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 A small knife (4)
3 Annoyed, heckled or persecuted (8)
9 Any human being (7)
10 Ancient Roman garments (5)
11 Snow leopard (5)
12 Signify (6)
14 Bought and sold (6)
16 Horse-drawn carriage (6)
19 Like better (6)
21 Belly button (5)
24 Day's march (5)
25 Vehicle for hire (7)
26 Inhabitant (8)
27 Type of adhesive (4)

DOWN

1 Plays or frolics, gambles (8)
2 Scientist Dr. C. V.___ (5)
4 Programme of business (6)
5 Advanced or made progress? (3,2)
6 Rectified (7)
7 Snack from the South (4)
8 Famous spinach consumer (6)
13 Easily duped or deceived (8)
15 Unpaid overdue debts (7)
17 Supplementary building (6)
18 Elementary particle (6)
20 Sigmund ___ : father of psychoanalysis? (5)
22 Outspoken (5)
23 India's ___ capital: Bangalore for sure (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Y EQUALS S

MEQ BSQPM YQOSQM IH YVOOQYY RY MI BI MESIVBE FRHQ PY P NPL XEI LQZQS BQMY VYQJ VC.

Linemaro

It's dark in here because all the light is shining on you

Mindchow

You can grow old without growing up

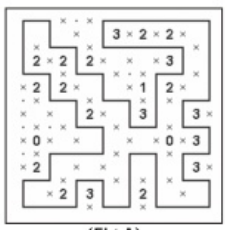
Joke of the day

Television is the triumph of machine over people

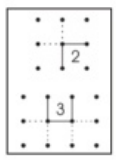
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

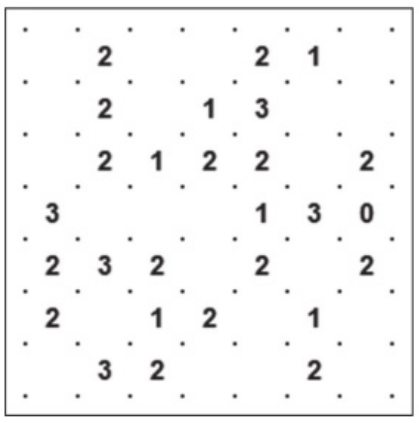


(Fig B) Not Allowed

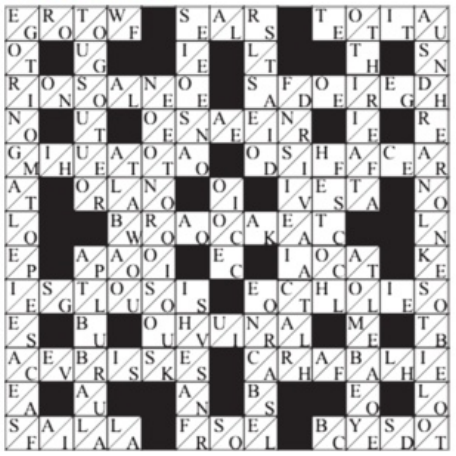
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



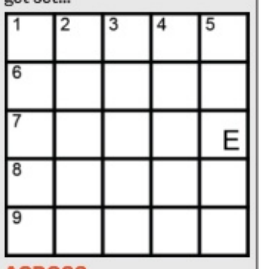
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Canes; 6 To nix;
7 Us a be; 8 Resin;
9 Hi tab

DOWN

1 SS Hat; 2 A I Cob;
3 Rubex; 4 I sine;
5 An net

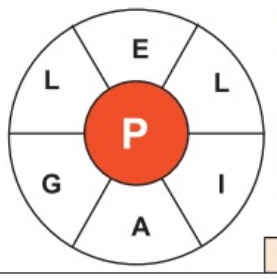
Mensapuzzle

In the two numerical sequences below, one number that appears in the top sequence should appear in the bottom sequence and vice versa. Which two numbers should be changed round?

10, 20, 60, 180, 360, 720

10, 30, 60, 120, 360, 1080

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

3	8	6				7		
	1				9			
		9			6			5
2		1		3	8		9	
4								7
	6		7	1		4		2
1			9			8		
			8				7	
		3				9	6	4

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

1 4 7 9

Medium = 9

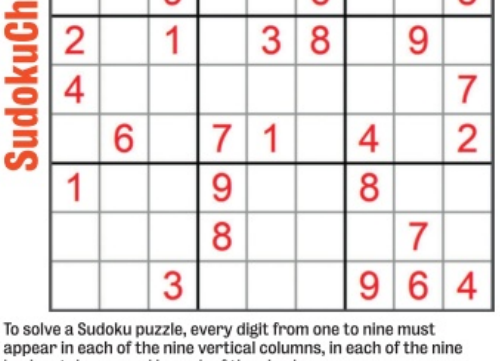
1 4 5 9

Hard = 22

2 5 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



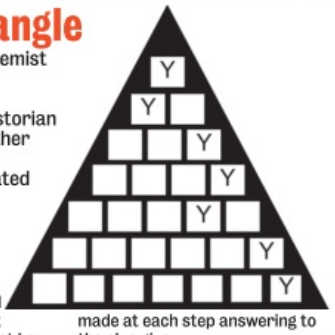
Differences: 1. Knife is moved. 2. Hand is moved. 3. Hat is shorter. 4. Apron bow is missing. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Pot is taller.

Riddler

Joy, Madeleine, Isabelle and Francine are 36, 37, 38 and 39 years old. They enjoy gardening, playing bingo, going to the casino and cooking for 4, 6, 8 and 10 hours a week. Hints: (1) One person plays bingo ten hours a week. (2) Isabelle, who is not 37 or 38 years old, spends less than eight hours weekly on her hobby. (3) The one who is 37 years old is not Madeleine and she does not garden or play bingo. (4) Francine, who is 36 years old, spends six hours a week on her hobby which is not gardening or cooking. (5) The 38-year-old woman does not garden or play bingo. What is the hobby and age of each woman?

Alpha triangle

1 Yttrium for the chemist
2 Loloish language
3 Penn plant?
4 Ancient Roman historian
5 Sadly-pseudo leather
6 To no purpose
7 In an unsophisticated manner

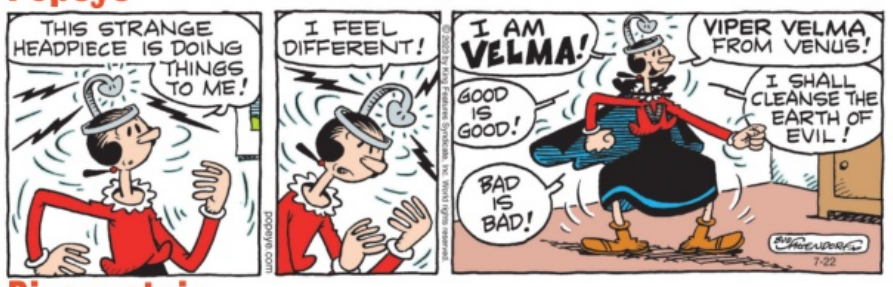


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

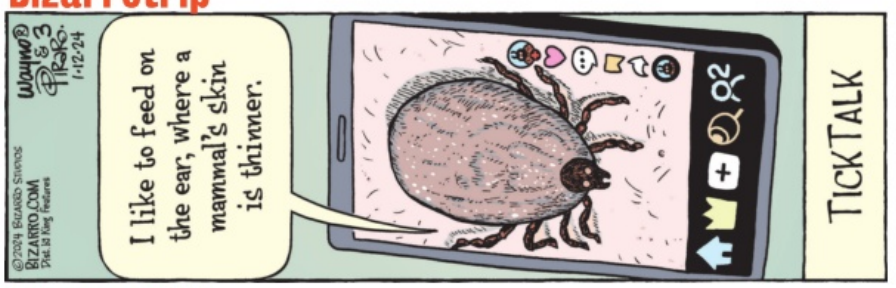
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


THIS STRANGE HEADPIECE IS DOING THINGS TO ME!
I FEEL DIFFERENT!
I AM VELMA!
VIPER VELMA FROM VENUS!
GOOD IS GOOD!
I SHALL CLEANSE THE EARTH OF EVIL!
BAD IS BAD!

Bizarrotrip

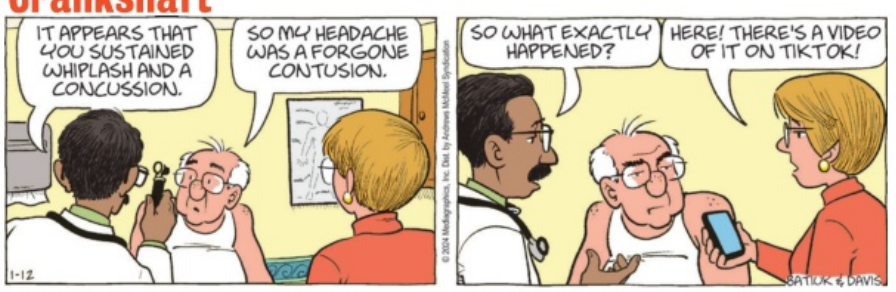

I like to feed on the ear, where a mammal's skin is thinner.
TICKTALK
Wayno & Piraro 1-12-24
©2024 BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU CAN HATE ME ALL YOU WANT, BUT LIV IS RIGHT. WE DO NEED TO WORK TOGETHER ON THIS HISTORY PROJECT.
FINALLY!
FINE, BUT I WON'T LIKE IT.
TRUST ME, NO ONE LIKES HISTORY PROJECTS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
©COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


IT APPEARS THAT YOU SUSTAINED WHIPLASH AND A CONCUSSION.
SO MY HEADACHE WAS A FORGONE CONTUSION.
SO WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
HERE! THERE'S A VIDEO OF IT ON TIKTOK!
1-12
© 2024 MeduaGraphics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATUCK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel better, and situations may be under control. Your network may help you on the job front. You may also plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity, you may bring some artefacts or creative items for your family. You may also plan to watch movies or go on an outing with friends or family.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may get tired due to overworking. It may make you lazy and careless, but you are advised to be patient. If you are planning an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stocks. Students are advised to work hard. You may have back aches, nervous system issues, lever-related issues, and skin issues.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may plan to renovate your house or office, which may increase your social status. There is likely to be harmony with your spouse, creating harmony in domestic life. Disagreements with friends, co-workers, and partners may be settled now. You may also get good news in terms of litigation.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your creativity may be high, and you may attend some creative events. Your money, which was stuck somewhere, may be recovered now. Jobseekers are advised to update their knowledge with the latest news in the field. Students are advised to put some more effort into their academics.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be busy with your kids' academics and may also plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of family growth. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get promoted in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be escaping from reality; you may not be able to shoulder your responsibilities. Your investments may cause you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Elderly health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house; it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may help needy people, which may increase your social respect. You may also put your full effort into your work, resulting in it being completed before time. You may hear some good news from your sibling. Overworking may make you tired. You are advised to avoid stress today; otherwise, it can affect both your professional and personal lives.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with family events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your image among your relatives and friends. You will spend money on buying some artefacts and other things that will improve your social status. You may hear some good news from one of your close relatives.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, disputes with the siblings may be settled, which may boost your relationship with them. Your vital force seems to be good; it may help you complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work-related trip. You may also help some needy people, which may increase your social status.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, some dissatisfaction may come into your mind; you may feel lazy and dull, which affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews. You will waste your precious time on worthless tasks.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel dull, and your focus may be lost on your targets. Your expectations may be very high, and because of impatience, you may not be able to fulfil them. You may be upset. You are advised to be careful on adventure tours and rush-hour driving. But by afternoon, your profits may increase, and you may be likely to start working with some new clients.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be able to control your internal weaknesses and be confident after analysing yourself. You may fight against addictions to anything. Singles are likely to find a good match. Lovebirds are now having clarity in their relationship. You may expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will hear good news in terms of academics.

KIDZONE

Burhanuddin Rampurawala, 11 years, Candor International School

Nila Nish, 4 years, St Joseph Chaminade Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
Joy – cooking – 8 hrs – 37,
Isabelle – gardening – 4 hrs – 39,
Madeleine – bingo – 10 hrs – 38,
Francine – casino – 6 hrs – 36

SOLVE IN 1M
28 + [(5–9)^2+8] – 4 x 7=
28 + [16+8] – 4 x 7=
28 + 2 – 28 =
30 – 28 = 2

FAST FIVE

S	C	E	N	A
T	O	X	I	N
A	B	U	S	E
S	I	R	E	N
H	A	B	I	T

BULL'S EYE
gape, lapel, leap, page,
pall, pale, peal, pile,
pill, PILLAGE, plea

STRIKE OUT

S	A	L	A		F	O	E		C	Y	S	T		
E		A		A	S			O		L				
C	E	R	I	S	E		A	R	A	B	L	E		
N		T		O		A	I	R		I		E		
G	H	E	T	T	O		D	I	F	F	E	R		
T		R	A	O		I		V	E	T		O		
P		O		B	R	A	C	K	E	T		N		
I	G	L	O	O	S		E	C	H	O	E	S		
E		U		U	H	U	R	A		M		B		
C		L		N		A		N		A		L		
	P	R	E	F	E	R		N	A	V	E	L		
	S				P									
T	R	A	D	E	D		L	A	N	D	A	U		
R		Y		A		E		G						
O	U	N	C	E		D	E	N	O	T	E			
P		A		P		N		O		H		A		
S	O	M	E	O	N	E		T	O	G	A	S		
D	I	R	K		B	A	D	G	E	R	E	D		

QUICK

R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T		G	L	U	E		
E		R		U		O		E		A		L		
T	A	P	E		T	A	X	I	C	A	B			
B		E		R		O		E		O		I		
	P	R	E	F	E	R		N	A	V	E	L		
S				P				N				L		
T	R	A	D	E	D		L	A	N	D	A	U		
R		Y		A		E		G						
O	U	N	C	E		D	E	N	O	T	E			
P		A		P		N		O		H		A		
S	O	M	E	O	N	E		T	O	G	A	S		
I		A		R		O		E		A		L		
D	I	R	K		B	A	D	G	E	R	E	D		

MENSA PUZZLE
180 and 120 should be interchanged. The top sequence
progresses ×2, ×5, ×2, ×3, ×2, ×2. The bottom sequence progresses ×5, ×2, ×3, ×2, ×3.

QUOTE UNCODE
The great secret of success is to go through life as a man who never gets used up.

SUDOKU

3	8	6	5	4	1	7	2	9
5	1	2	3	7	9	6	4	8
7	4	9	2	8	6	3	1	5
2	7	1	4	3	8	5	9	6
4	3	5	6	9	2	1	8	7
9	6	8	7	1	5	4	3	2
1	2	7	9	6	4	8	5	3
6	9	4	8	5	3	2	7	1
8	5	3	1	2	7	9	6	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
Y, Yi, Iyy, Llyy,
Vinyl, Valnly,
Naively.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 – 7 + 9 – 1 = 5
Medium
9 – 4 + 5 – 1 = 9
Hard
2 x 3 x 5 – 8 = 22

KAKURO

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'Having children has made me better artist'
Actor Matthew McConaughey shared how his three children Levi, 15, Vida, 14, and Livingston, 11, whom he shares with wife Camila Alves McConaughey, have made him a better actor, reported People

BangaloreMirror | 12
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
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@BangaloreMirror
Entertainment Industry Promotion

CHILDHOOD DREAM

As a child, what did Nargis want to become in life? Read on to find out...

From Rockstar to Main Tera Hero, actress Nargis Fakhri has delivered some of the biggest hits throughout her journey in Bollywood.

The 'Rockstar' girl has shown her range as an actress by slipping into different roles in films like 'Madras Café', 'Azhar' and 'Housefull 3' to name a few more. However, her fans wonder what would have been a different career choice for her before she landed up in Bollywood, and well, Nargis has revealed it herself!

> "Since my childhood, I wished to provide animals with a safe environment

"I wanted to become a veterinarian as a child. I love animals and since my childhood, I always have wished to provide them with a safe environment, but destiny had other plans and I landed up in the film industry. And if I had to reflect on my life, I wouldn't change a thing. Over the years, I fell in love with my craft. I mean, look at it, I can do and be whatever I want on screen. And also, I have experienced how impactful films are on people's lives, which is why my endeavor is to try and do films that are important and films are sort of an escapism from our daily struggles," Nargis shared.

Recently, Nargis Fakhri was filled with joy as 'Main Tera Hero' clocked 10 years since its release. Now, on the work front, Nargis, who was last seen in an OTT show, has a few interesting projects coming up, which are slated to be announced later this year. At the moment she is abroad working on some fashion projects.

Nargis has embraced the unexpected turns of fate with grace and enthusiasm. While her childhood dream may have been to care for animals, she has found her calling in the world of cinema, where she can not only entertain but also inspire audiences. As she continues to explore diverse roles on screen, Nargis remains committed to projects that resonate with viewers on a deeper level. With her passion for storytelling and dedication, she is all set to captivate her fans. **— ETimes**

Back here to stay

Actor Parineeti Chopra got emotional as she has been receiving appreciation for her role as Amarjot in 'Amar Singh Chamkila'. The actor penned a heartwarming note for her fans expressing her feelings.

Taking to Instagram on Sunday, Parineeti shared stills from the sets along with a thank you note.

The note read, "Curled up in my blanket. Overwhelmed with your words, calls, and movie reviews. (tears are not stopping)"PARINEETI IS BACK." These words are ringing loud. Hadn't thought of this. Yes I am back, and not going anywhere!#Chamkila."

As soon as the post was shared, fans chimed in the comment section. One of the users wrote, "Parineeti Era is Back!!!!!" Another user commented, "You did an outstanding job in this movie." "This is how you get into the skin of a character @parineetichopra #amarjotkaur," another comment read. **—IANS**

Troll tension

Priyamani, who is currently seen in Ajay Devgn starrer Maidaan, recently opened up about how she and her family dealt with negative comments about her marriage with Mustafa Raj. She admitted that the online trolling did affect her and had to go through a mix of emotions.

"To be honest, it did affect me. Not only me per se but my family also, especially my father and mother," Priyamani told Galatta India.

She went on to express gratitude for her husband's unconditional support during these trying times. "But I have to say my husband stood by me as a rock. He said, 'Look, whatever happens, I will let everything come to me first. But all I would say is hold my hand and be with me through every step.'"

Priyamani further revealed that they also faced challenges even before their marriage. She said that she faced a lot of rumours when they were seeing each other. "I had told him the same thing, 'Stand by me and trust me,'" she said, adding that they decided to walk the path together and brave the storm or embrace the sunshine since they promised to spend the rest of their lives together.

Despite the distress caused, Priyamani said that she and Mustafa remained resilient, "It did upset me, but at that time I wasn't in Mumbai, I was in Bangalore with my husband. We took care of everything and didn't let it hinder my parents also. We just asked them to not bother much because it's us at the end of the day. Their blessings and prayers have taken us a long way.". **—ETimes**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

On matrimony

Director Kanasu Ramesh is busy with shooting for his second movie Ondu Maduve Kathe, which has a tagline, Thappade Ellaru Banni. Its muhurat function was held at Sri Bande Mahakali Temple recently. Businessman BM Umesh Kumar sounded the clapboard for the first scene of the movie that is being bankrolled by Vijayendra Gowda, a real estate businessman from Bengaluru.

"The movie is about the incidents taking place from night to evening the next day at a marriage hall. I wanted to make the movie as entertaining as it can be and it highlights the problems of prospective bridegrooms in finding life partners in rural areas due to sex ratio imbalances," said Ramesh. The director said the movie is scheduled to go on floors from next month and its shooting is expected to be completed in one month. "Jayaram of Bow Bow Biryani fame is playing the lead role," the director said.

For downtrodden

The lyrical audio of the film The Rulers was released on the occasion of Dr B R Ambedkar Jayanthi. Bollywood playback singer Kailash Kher has sung the song while Karuna has scored music. Kavirathna Dr V Nagendra Prasad has written the lyrics and the lyrical audio was released on A2 Music YouTube channel.

The movie is directed by Uday Bhaskar while KM Sandesh has written the script, screenplay and dialogues.

According to the script writer, the movie is based on incidents that have taken place and the incidents that have been taking place in Kolar district. The movie is expected to showcase discrimination against downtrodden people in society and how the Indian Constitution protects and helps those people from the exploitation of affluent people. "The objective of the movie is to create awareness among the audiences on the exploitation of the downtrodden. The movie will also educate people about their rights and responsibilities," said Sandesh.

He said the movie tries to educate girls from poor families on how to lead life with dignity and respect.